



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Walla Walla District

News Release

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Contact: Public Affairs Office

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Walla Walla District plans National Public Lands Day activities

WALLA WALLA, Wash. – Do you enjoy outdoor recreation activities on public lands? Would you like to help keep them safe, clean and beautiful?

If you answered "Yes" to both questions, then come join volunteer crews as they honor National Public Lands Day on Saturday, Sept. 29, at several U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' recreation areas in the Walla Walla District.

Public Lands Day is the nation's largest, single-day volunteer event to benefit public lands. Officially the last Saturday of September, organizers anticipate more than 100,000 Americans of all ages will participate nationwide, volunteering their time and effort to help restore the beauty and vitality of our public lands.

Walla Walla, Wash. – At Mill Creek Dam and Bennington Lake volunteers will help install bat boxes, place sign posts for a new interpretive trail and help maintain trails around the lake. The event will last from 9 a.m. to noon on Sept. 29. Volunteers should meet park rangers at the Corps' Mill Creek office located at 3211 Reservoir Road in Walla Walla. For more information or to sign up to help, call (509) 527-7165. *Getting there:* from Hwy. 12 at the east end of Walla Walla, exit south onto Tausick Way, continue past Walla Walla Community College, immediately on the south side of the Mill Creek crossing, turn left onto Reservoir Road and follow it about 1 mile to the office, located on the left side of the road.

Burbank, Wash. – Ice Harbor Natural Resources Management Office staff need volunteers to help develop a new nature area at Hood Park from 9 a.m. to noon. This project includes trail building; installing interpretive signs, bird boxes, bat boxes, duck boxes and benches; planting trees and/or shrubs; and refurbishing bird blinds. Volunteers should meet Corps staff at 9 a.m. at the entrance to Hood Park. For more information, call Park Ranger Joyce McDonald at (509) 543-6066. *Getting there:* travel 3 miles south of Pasco, Wash., on U.S. Highway 12, turn east at junction of Highway 124, park is immediately on the left.

Umatilla, Ore. – At McNary Lock and Dam, from 9-11 a.m., volunteers are needed to install benches around the fishing ponds and, time permitting, paint some wildlife-viewing blinds. Helpers should meet the natural resources staff at the fountain pond on 3rd Street on the downstream side of the dam. For more information, call (541) 922-2268. *Getting there:* travel 1.5 miles east of Umatilla, Oregon, on Highway 730, 1 mile north on McNary Dam Road, and 0.5 mile west on Third Street; located at Columbia River Mile 291, on the south riverbank.

Clarkston, Wash. – Washington State University students have adopted the Corps' Granite Point as their stewardship project for Public Lands Day. Lower Granite Natural Resources Management Office is looking for other community groups to participate in their "Adopt-A-Shoreline" stewardship program for Walla Walla District natural resource lands. For more information about public lands stewardship opportunities in the Lewiston-Clarkston area, call Park Ranger Darren Opp at (509) 751-0249.

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Whether you join a formal public lands event or just grab a trash bag to help pick up litter as you walk the trails in a nature area or park, your efforts help preserve the beauty of public lands for everyone to enjoy. Anyone who enjoys fun in the great outdoors is encouraged to “Give a helping hand to America’s lands.”

Volunteers should wear sturdy shoes suitable for uneven terrain, dress appropriately for weather conditions and bring personal work gloves, snacks and drinking water in a portable container – some project locations do not have potable water services in the immediate vicinity. For more information about National Public Lands Day, visit their Web site at www.publiclandsday.org.

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